

The Alexandria Gazette.

WEDNESDAY EVEN'G. JUNE 25, 1862.

THE ORPHAN ASYLUM AND FEMALE FREE SCHOOL.—These benevolent institutions—so long an honor to our town, and productive of the happiest results in the cause of benevolence and religion—are now, as we are informed, seriously in want of funds for their maintenance and preservation. The expenses have been curtailed to the very lowest point—the matron and teacher, we believe, receiving no compensation, but unwilling to quit their charge—and every effort made to reduce the cost of support within the compass of means possible to be obtained. We do not hesitate, therefore, now to make an earnest appeal to our fellow-citizens in behalf of the Asylum and School, and to ask them—all of them who are able—to come forward, at this time and at once, in their aid.—Donations, in whatever sums, or whatever kind, can be left with, or handed to, Rev. Elias Harrison, who will see that they are handed over to the Treasurer. We hope our appeal will not be in vain. We believe it will meet with a cheerful response.

GENERAL NEWS.

The steamboat Baltimore returned to Washington on Monday, from the White House, bringing back the members of Congress who left in her on Friday night last, and who had visited Norfolk, Yorktown, and other places.—It was the intention of some of the party on arriving at the White House to proceed overland and visit Gen. McClellan's army, but on telegraphing to him announcing their arrival they received an answer that he was not prepared to receive visitors and that civilians were not permitted in the field.

The majority in eighty-eight counties in Illinois against a new Constitution is 2000. There are seventeen counties yet to be heard from, which gave a Democratic majority in 1860, of about 9,500. The three negro propositions are adopted. The bank clause is yet in doubt.

In the U. S. Senate, yesterday, a bill was introduced to amend the act to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. The confiscation bill from the House was taken up and debated, and Mr. Saulsbury, of Delaware, made an able speech against it.

The House passed a bill appropriating five millions of dollars to pay bounties to volunteers employed under the act of July last. The bill to authorize an additional issue of one hundred and fifty millions of United States notes was also passed. Among the bills reported was one to incorporate a bank, to be styled the "National Bank," in the District of Columbia, with a capital of five hundred thousand dollars.

President Lincoln has vetoed the bill recently passed "to repeal that clause of an act of Congress which prohibits the circulation of bank notes of a less denomination than five dollars, in the District of Columbia."

The City Council of Cincinnati have requested President Lincoln to "allow the Fifth Ohio regiment to return home in order that it may rest and recruit."

Ross Winans, jr., of Baltimore, has married a young lady in Patterson, N. J., Miss. Munson.

The Boston Traveller says that some citizens have expressed the opinion that drafting will have to be resorted to in order to obtain three additional regiments required from Massachusetts. The New York Express says:—"Many of the Brooklyn regiments now at the seat of war it appears are sadly deficient in numbers, their ranks having been much thinned by sickness, wounded, and killed."

The Federal gunboat fleet were lying in James river, near City Point, on Sunday, and had shelled out the Confederate batteries in that vicinity.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says:—"The Confederate policy of protracting the war into the sickly season, and drawing the Federal armies into the interior beyond the aid of gunboats, is in progress of execution. A counter policy is talked of—that of suspending operations, on the part of the Federal armies, from the first of August till the first of November. It is advised that the blockade be continued by sea and land, while the troops go into summer quarters in salubrious positions."

An attempt, it is said, is about to be made in some of the northwestern States to unite all parties in behalf of measures of conciliation.—Thus, Senator Wright, of Indiana, writes to the Union convention of that State that "ultraism must be abjured," or the government, he says, will not survive.

Moses Kelley, the former chief clerk of the Interior Department, has been rejected by the Senate as Register of Wills for the District of Columbia.

A diplomatic dinner was given yesterday to the Mexican Minister. A number of Senators and other distinguished gentlemen were present. The gathering is supposed to have a significant meaning just now.

The ship North American, which arrived at Boston Saturday afternoon from New Orleans, brought the church bells from that city which had been gathered by order of Gen. Beauregard and ordered to be cast into cannon.

A special despatch from Memphis to the N. Y. Tribune, dated 22d, says that "over two hundred merchants have taken the oath of allegiance. Preaching of treason has been stopped by Gen. Wallace, and the Rector of an Episcopal church, who offered prayers for the Southern Confederacy last Sunday, has been effectually admonished. The citizens of Brownsville, Hayward county, raised the Stars and Stripes yesterday. Gen. Coles, originally a Secessionist, of Hayward county, sends word to Gen. Wallace that since his cotton has been burned, he wants to take the oath of allegiance."

A high dignitary from Michigan, now in Washington, is said, in a letter, "to have been brought up all standing, a few evenings since at Willard's, while denouncing, most bitterly and ungenerously, Gen. McClellan. General Sturgis, whose career in Missouri has shown him to be a worthy officer, was near, and heard the remarks made, and stepping up to the ingenious civilian, remarked, "I do not know you, sir; but you are a liar, scoundrel and coward. My name is Sturgis, Brigadier General in the United States Army." Whether this was strictly parliamentary or not I leave others to decide, but the result was a moving adjournment, sine die."

Mr. Geo. Blake, of Portland, Me. a returned missionary to the contrabands, from South Carolina, in a letter published in the Portland Advertiser, says:—"Before I went South, Fremont had issued his proclamation, giving unconditional emancipation to the slaves of the Confederates in Missouri. I hailed that proclamation as a Godsend, and most heartily endorsed it. I only wished that our noble President would catch a similar spirit. I returned North from South Carolina with altogether new and different feelings. My experience and observation, though limited, has taught me a new lesson. There must be a controlling power exercised over the negro of the present generation, educated as he has been, under a system of slavery, else you ruin the blacks, and weaken Government."

The U. S. steamer Statellite has gone to Philadelphia for machinery and operators to raise the wrecks of the Congress, Cumberland, and other vessels sunken near Norfolk.

The House of Representatives has concurred in the Senate amendments to the House bill to punish and prevent the practice of polygamy in the Territories of the U. S. It provides that upon conviction, bigamy shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$500, or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.

The Petersburg Express of the 20th instant, says that six thousand Federal troops are advancing from Norfolk and Suffolk toward Weldon.

The Baltimore American says:—"President Lincoln is on a visit to West Point, New York. It was known that he passed through this city on Monday night in a special train, but publication of the fact was withheld until he had reached his destination. Gen. Scott is at West Point, and is said that Gen. Pope, recently called to Washington from Gen. Halleck's army, accompanies the President."

Gen. Pope arrived in Washington yesterday morning and was very enthusiastically received. The report that he accompanied the President to West Point is incorrect.

It is reported that at the battle of Shiloh, a Federal volunteer and a Confederate soldier were found dead, with hands clasped. It is supposed that they fell side by side, mortally wounded, and making friends, died in peace. What a contrast to the spectacle around.

One of the newest dodges in the thieving line is that recently adopted by a gang of experts in New York, who procure a fast horse and drive up in front of a store where goods are exposed upon the side walk, seize two or three packages, and drive off before the astonished owners comprehend what is transpiring.

The Washington Republican intimates that little or no reliance can be placed on reported information from North Carolina, published in a paper called the Newbern Progress.

The nomination of Gen. Shields, as Major General, was rejected by the Senate with not a vote in his favor. The testimony adduced before the Committee on the Conduct of the War, in regard to the battle of Port Republic, showed in the estimation of Senators, that Gen. Shields was either insane or totally incompetent. It is said that many of the officers, medical and military, nearest to the person of Gen. Shields for some time past, have been ready to bear testimony to his insanity.